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AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A ~~process method~~ for storing maintaining the ~~product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time in a~~ food cabinet housing having a plurality of food product compartments comprising the steps of:

- a) heating water in a water reservoir of a steamer assembly to a first substantially fixed temperature and maintaining the water in the water reservoir at said first substantially fixed temperature;
- b) ~~coupling a food cabinet housing having a plurality of compartments to the steamer assembly;~~
- e)b) heating air passing through said food cabinet housing to a second substantially fixed temperature and maintaining the air in said food cabinet housing at said second fixed temperature so as to control and maintain a fixed relative humidity within said food cabinet housing;

- c) placing a pre-cooked food product into at least one of said
compartments;
- ~~d) movably guiding a plurality of drawers each in a corresponding~~
~~one of said plurality of compartments;~~
- ~~e) placing pre-processed food products in a plurality of carrier inserts;~~
- ~~f) selectively opening each drawer of the plurality of drawers;~~
- ~~g) removably supporting each of said carrier inserts containing pre-~~
~~processed food products in a corresponding opened drawer of said~~
~~plurality of drawers;~~
- ~~h) closing each of said drawers removably supporting said carrier~~
~~insert so that said pre-processed food products in said carrier~~
~~inserts are conditioned at the fixed relative humidity of said food~~
~~cabinet housing for up to the predetermined amount of time so as~~
~~to maintain the product appearance of the pre-processed food~~
~~products; and~~
- i)d) controlling and sequencing the removal of the pre-processed food
products from each compartment ~~before the expiration of the~~
~~predetermined amount of time.~~

19. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance~~
~~of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time~~ method of claim 18 wherein
said pre-processed food products ~~placed in said carrier inserts~~ are selected from the group
consisting of cooked baked goods and toasted baked goods.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 wherein said pre-processed food products are toasted hamburger buns.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of maintaining the first fixed temperature of the water in the water reservoir of said steamer assembly to be within the range of between approximately 130° to 180°F.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of maintaining the first fixed temperature of the water in the water reservoir of said steamer assembly at a temperature of approximately 150°F.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of maintaining the second fixed temperature of the air in the food cabinet housing to be within the range of between approximately 125° to 150°F.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of maintaining the second fixed temperature of the air in the food cabinet housing at a temperature of approximately 135° F.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of conditioning the pre-processed food products in said food cabinet housing at a fixed relative humidity of approximately 70%.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and further comprising the step of indicating by colored light differentiation the sequencing of removal of the pre-processed food products from each compartment before the expiration of the~~ a predetermined amount of time.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and further comprising~~ the step of filling each placing the food product into a drawer and placing said drawer into a compartment carrier insert with up to ten hamburger buns.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and further comprising the step of promoting drainage of moisture from the pre-processed food products held in each said carrier insert.~~

29. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 28 ~~wherein said drainage promoting step includes further comprising the step of providing each of said drawers with respective carrier inserts.~~ a plurality of rows of open slits on a supporting surface of each of said carrier inserts.

30. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 29 ~~and further comprising the step of~~ providing a plurality of rows of open slits on a supporting surface of each of said carrier inserts. ~~substantially offsetting adjacent rows of said plurality of rows of open slits from one another.~~

31. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 29 ~~and further comprising the step of~~ substantially offsetting adjacent rows of said plurality of rows of open slits from one

~~another substantially aligning alternate rows of said plurality of rows of open slits with one another.~~

32. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and~~ further comprising placing a steam baffle plate between said steamer assembly and said food cabinet housing.

33. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and~~ further comprising the step of leaning each of said plurality of pre-processed food products in each of said carrier inserts by providing an angled surface along a rear surface of each carrier insert which is set at approximately 41.5° from horizontal.

34. (Currently amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product~~ method of claim 18 ~~and~~ further comprising the step of conditioning said pre-processed food products at the fixed relative humidity of the food cabinet housing for up to approximately 90 minutes.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A ~~process method~~ for ~~storing maintaining the~~
~~product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time in a~~
food cabinet housing having a plurality of food product compartments comprising the steps of:

- a) heating water in a water reservoir of steamer assembly to a first fixed temperature and maintaining the water in the steamer assembly at said first substantially fixed temperature;
- ~~b) placing a food cabinet housing having a plurality of compartments in a position so that the steam generated in said steamer assembly passes into said cabinet housing;~~
- e)b) heating air passing through said food cabinet housing to a second fixed temperature and maintaining the air in said food cabinet housing at a second substantially fixed temperature so as to control and maintain a fixed relative humidity within said food cabinet housing;
- d)c) movably guiding each of a plurality of drawers in a respective one of said plurality of compartments so that each drawer can be independently opened/closed with respect to the other drawers;
- e)d) independently opening each of said drawers and placing pre-processed food products in said opened drawer;

- ~~f)e)~~ closing said opened drawer into said respective compartment so as to store pre-processed food products in said respective compartment;
- ~~g)d)~~ conditioning the pre-processed food products at the fixed relative humidity of said food cabinet housing ~~up to~~ for a predetermined amount of time so as to maintain the product appearance of the pre-processed food products; and
- ~~h)g)~~ independently opening one of said drawers and removing the conditioned pre-processed food products from its respective compartment prior to the expiration of the predetermined amount of time.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time~~ method of claim 47 and further comprising the step of controlling the sequencing of the removal of the pre-processed food products from each compartment before the expiration of the predetermined amount of time.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time~~ method of claim 48 and further comprising the step of holding said pre-processed food products in a carrier insert which is removably supported in a corresponding one of said plurality of drawers.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time~~ method of claim 49 and

further comprising the step of promoting drainage of moisture from the pre-processed food products held in each carrier insert.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~process for maintaining the product appearance of a pre-processed food product for a predetermined amount of time~~ method of claim 48 and further comprising the step of placing a steam baffle plate between said steamer assembly and said food cabinet housing to pass steam generated in said steamer assembly into said food cabinet housing.